

COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

VOL. XVIII. No. 41.] LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1810. [Price 1s.

"My most serious objection, to the vote proposed, refers to the unconstitutional application of the public money. I advert to the sums advanced to the princes of the blood, without the consent of Parliament. I do not think it decent or becoming that the princes of England should be dependent on the minister of the day. If they wanted relief, they ought to have made application to the House of Commons, and not condescend to receive bounties from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I recollect, however, and the reflection gives me pain, that whenever they have applied to this House in a constitutional way, for that relief to which they were entitled, their claims have been rejected. This has been particularly evinced in the applications of THAT ILLUSTRIOUS MEMBER OF THE FAMILY, who enjoys, as he deserves, the particular affection and confidence of the people; and is therefore, perhaps, AN OBJECT OF JEALOUSY TO SOME. But whenever these princes have appealed to ministers privately, that assistance has been unconstitutionally granted which ought only to have flowed from Parliament. It is a subject of regret and surprize, that what Parliament has refused, should be bestowed by ministerial influence."—SIR FRANCIS BURDETT'S Speech upon the Civil List Grant, 2nd July, 1804.

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TO THE READERS OF THE REGISTER.

The TABLE OF CONTENTS, the INDEX, &c. to the present Volume, will be included in the two next Numbers, that is to say, in the two first Numbers of the next Volume; but, they will be so printed as to be conveniently separated from the Numbers in which they are included; and the reader will have nothing to do but to take them out and put them to their proper Volume.—This was thought to be preferable to the publishing of a Double Number, and will be attended with the additional advantage of my being enabled to complete the Tables of Prices, &c. up to the last day of the year.

SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

KING'S ILLNESS. THE REGENCY. — It is, it would seem, now become impossible any longer to disguise the fact of the King being extremely ill; and, it is worth observation, that in the chief of the venal prints, the COURIER, a letter appeared on Saturday last, stating that the King was much better; that a material change for the better had taken place; when, as it now appears, the King was, at the very time spoken of in this sham letter, in a very dangerous way.—All that we read in these venal prints is calculated to deceive and cheat the public. The falsehoods,

which they have promulgated, upon this subject, since the fact of the King's illness could no longer be kept wholly from the public, surpass, perhaps, any thing of the kind that even this nation has ever before witnessed.—What a shame is this in itself! But, when one comes to look into the real cause of it, how much blacker does the thing become? Why these falsehoods? Why should the truth be withheld from the public? Why should these frauds have been thus continually practised? Every man's mind will suggest the proper answer, and will, at the same time teach him to hold in detestation the men, in whose minds the falsehoods have manifestly been hatched.—In my last Number, I pointed out very clearly how the language of the venal prints had changed, upon the subject of the proposed limitations, since it was discovered, that the PRINCE would not admit Mr. PERCEVAL to an interview. They were all decided for no limitations at all, while they were asserting that His Royal Highness would make no change in the ministry. They coupled the opinion with the assertion. They were equally clear and unqualified as to both. But, the moment they had to confess, that the PRINCE had refused to see Mr. PERCEVAL, that moment they discovered, that all the limitations of 1788 ought now to be imposed. They had before said expressly, that the material change of circumstances that had taken place since 1788, called for a change in the plan of a Regency, and particularly, that the limitations then thought necessary, could not be thought necessary now; but the moment they found that the PRINCE had refused to see Mr. PERCEVAL, they tacked suddenly about, and could perceive that

those limitations, in their full extent, were absolutely necessary, and, indeed, the *COURIER* of the 26th instant says, that "the *circumstances have changed*, but the "change is in favour of the necessity of re-
"strictions!"—One would wonder how any man was to be found capable of baseness like this. The fact must be seen to be believed of human nature. It serves, however, to show us what are the sort of men and the sort of means opposed to the lodging of the Royal Authority, full and undivided, in the hands of the Heir to the throne.—We have before taken a general view of the tendency, in a constitutional point of view, of imposing limitations upon His Royal Highness. But, are the people aware of the way in which some part of these limitations would operate, in a *pecuniary* point of view? Are they aware of the new and heavy burdens that must, in consequence of such limitations, be imposed upon them?—Some explanation is necessary here.—One part of the project of 1788 was to withhold from the Prince the appointment of the several offices connected with the King's Household, and also to keep from him the allowance for the King's Privy Purse. Both these were to be placed in the hands of Her Majesty, the QUEEN, who was to have a Council to aid her.—The offices of the Household are very considerable in point of number and emolument, and, of course, of influence. The allowance for the King's Privy Purse is a sum of not less than 60,000 pounds a year, which, as the reader will observe, is wholly independent of, and over and above, all the expences of the household and all the settled and known expences or disbursements of the King. It is so much money which he may, and does, dispose of just as he pleases. He may give it away, or lay it up, or do what he likes with it.—This, in a kingly government, may, or may not, be proper; but, however men may differ in opinion as to the general propriety of it, all must agree, I think, that the privy purse ought to go with the Royal Authority, because it is given for the purpose of supporting the splendour of the throne, which is regarded as necessary to the welfare of the people.—The project of 1788, is, it would seem from the language of the venal prints, to be acted upon, if the two Houses agree to it; and, of course, His Royal Highness, the Prince, would, in such case, have to exercise the functions of Royalty, without a Household Establish-

ment, or a Privy Purse; or, the people would have to bear new taxes to defray the expences of both; so that, the King's incapacity to perform the duties of his high office, would bring upon the people the burden of two households and two privy purses.—And for what? Can any man answer me that question? Will the most venal of the venal tribe tell me for what reason this ought to be? Can any such man find out, or attempt, a justification of such a measure? Can any man discover an apology for it; can he make up any, even the slightest pretence or excuse for it?—Let us hear what has been said by the *COURIER* of the 25th instant, as to this point, which will enable us to judge of the reasons that can be urged in defence of such a measure.—He first tells us what passed in the House of Commons respecting it:—"After the Gallery was cleared, Mr. Wynn asked Mr. Perceval whether, in the event of the House agreeing to the Restriction, which would deprive the Regent of the nomination of the Officers of the Household, he proposed to follow the plan given notice of by Mr. Pitt in 1788, of allowing to the Regent an additional regal establishment, and imposing fresh taxes, to defray the expence of it, to which Mr. Perceval answered in the affirmative."—Having quoted this passage, the venal man sets about an anticipation of what will be objected to such a measure; and he then, in the manner that we shall see, endeavours to answer the objections which he anticipates.—"From the above paragraph we are led to apprehend it is the design of opposition to make the same absurd cry against assigning the Prince a due income for the maintenance of his new dignity, which was raised in 1789. Do the opposition now intend to raise the same silly objection? Fresh taxes!" This it is supposed will touch John Bull in the tender point? Under the idea that John is a sordid ungenerous wretch; is this a bait thrown out to catch a little popularity? If it be, those who have thrown it are shallow panders of the base passions of the people, the most mischievous advisers the Prince of Wales can have about him. Is it not obvious how many unpleasant recollections must arise from a discussion of the Prince's pecuniary affairs; recollections which all good men must wish buried in oblivion? Will not ill-natured remarks be made upon the offer of conducting so high an office, without

"any additional provision, by a personage
 "who has found the provision already as-
 "signed insufficient for his support, and the
 "chief grounds of whose unpopularity, now
 "happily nearly obliterated, were his debts?
 "Would these gentlemen have the Prince
 "declare, that mortgaged and hampered as
 "his income already is, insufficient as he
 "has found it, yet still he is willing and
 "able to undertake an office of far greater
 "expence, without any additional allow-
 "ance? Would they have the Regent, so
 "nearly our King as he will be, live in a
 "private style, walking the streets in a
 "brown coat, maintaining neither state nor
 "dignity? And all this for the low gro-
 "velling motive of catching a little popu-
 "larity from the mob; by not imposing
 "fresh taxes? Were the Ministers to pro-
 "pose such a plan, then indeed they might
 "be accused of degrading Royalty; and
 "there would be heard against them a
 "loud cry of just indignation. It is singu-
 "lar, that while a clamour is raised against
 "cramping the Regent's power, those
 "persons who raise it, who call themselves
 "his friends, should advise him to cramp it
 "in the most essential point—the pecuniary
 "provision for his state and dignity. Such
 "canting may please Sir Francis Burdett,
 "and his rabble; and were this the first
 "time of its being heard, we should as-
 "cribe it to the counsels of the worthy
 "Baronet. No: The Regent must have
 "a provision suited to his rank and digni-
 "ty; and suitably to that rank and dig-
 "nity he must live. He must hold a
 "Court, have Levees and drawing-rooms,
 "and appear surrounded with splendour
 "in public. All men of sense allow that this
 "splendour is essentially necessary to ensure a
 "due respect for Royalty; and least of any
 "can it be dispensed with in these times.
 "Many instances might be given of Roy-
 "alty falling into contempt by the plain
 "appearance and familiar habits of those
 "on whom it had devolved. The sages of
 "the Burdett school have often recommended
 "that the servants of the State should work
 "without pay; but we trust they will not be
 "gratified by seeing a Regent without any
 "pecuniary provision as such, and with-
 "out a regal establishment; even although
 "such an arrangement should render ne-
 "cessary the imposition of "Fresh
 "Taxes!"—Now, reader, after re-
 "peating to you, that this is taken from the
 "COURIER news-paper of the 25th instant,
 "and begging you to bear in mind what
 "the character and description of that paper

is, let me ask you if you, in your whole life,
 ever cast your eyes upon any in which
 the MEAN, MERCENARY, and MALIG-
 NANT mind was so clearly visible? The
 man, who penned, or who dictated, or who
 approved of this, must join to the most pro-
 found hypocrisy, a degree of malignity
 rarely to be met with even in that malig-
 nant school, in which he has been edu-
 cated. In most other writings, however
 false and base upon the whole, we find
 something of an unexceptionable sort; but
 here all is falsehood or misrepresentation;
 all is malignant and base.—No answer
 is here given, or attempted to be given,
 to the complaint which is anticipated,
 that the people would have to sustain the
 burden of two Regal establishments. No:
 to answer that complaint was impossible;
 and, therefore, in the vindictiveness of his
 heart, the author of this paragraph, this
 leader of those venal men who call them-
 selves "the loyal;" who have assumed the
 exclusive appellation of King's friends;
 this man, who has, at the same time, the
 impudence to impute disloyal motives to
 others, makes use of the occasion to en-
 deavour to excite popular dislike of the
 Heir Apparent to the throne, and that, too,
 by insinuations as false as they are ma-
 lignant.—The Prince is here told, that,
 if any objection be made to the contem-
 plated measure, the discussion will give
 rise "to many unpleasant recollections be-
 "longing to his pecuniary affairs, which
 "all good men" [Oh! the base hypo-
 crite!] "must wish buried in oblivion,"
 "and then he is told, that the "chief grounds
 "of his unpopularity, are his debts."—
 In the first place, it is false to say, as it is
 here clearly said, that His Royal High-
 ness is, or ever has been, unpopular with
 any part of the people, except such as
 were misled by the hypocritical cant of
 those, whose selfish purposes it answered
 to misrepresent him, to discolour all his
 actions; to spread out every speck into
 abroad and odious blemish, and who, be
 it well remarked, while they were the
 unqualified defenders of the unbounded
 profligacy of foreign courts, for the sus-
 taining of whom against their indignant
 people, they were willing to see wasted
 the blood and sweat of England, hunted,
 with the nose of the Beagle and the eyes of
 the Lynx, for faults in the Prince of Wales.
 In short, that man must not have lived in
 England; that man must have heard no-
 thing of England, who does not know,
 that to misrepresent, to undermine, to

blacken, to pull down and to keep down, to render of no weight or consequence, the Prince of Wales, has, for many years, been the leading feature in the policy of those, who have been the worst enemies of the people of England that the people of England ever knew; the merciless enemies of them in their property, their liberty and their lives; and, who, under the garb of loyalty, have really done all that in them lay to extirpate all the just and useful prerogatives of the Crown.—“The debts of the Prince!” And, *why* had he debts that he was unable to pay? Not because he expended more than it became him to spend; but because that which he ought to have received was withheld from him. He never ought to have been reduced to the necessity of making any application to parliament, or to any body else. It was as necessary that he should have the means of munificence as that the King should have such means. But, it was always the wish of the persons spoken of above, that he should, as often as possible, be reduced to a state that compelled him to make applications for money, and that, upon all such occasions, there should issue forth a fresh swarm of insinuations against him, while a hundred times the amount of his wants was expended upon others without calling forth the slightest animadversion.—The reader will not fail to observe, that the very persons, who are now promulgating these revived insinuations against the Prince, and who, as was before observed, have, for many years past, taken every opportunity of exhibiting him to the people as a squanderer of their money; these very persons, have, upon all occasions, been the defenders of grants, however enormous and unmerited, to others. In all such cases, they have talked of the necessity of such grants to the support of the splendour of the throne and the kingly government; they have insisted that the King ought to have the power of granting even the *reversions*, three or four deep, of sinecure places; they have defended the sinecure system; they have called such places the freeholds of the patentees; they have, in all such cases, called it *cant* and hunting after popularity to oppose such grants; but, in cases, where money was wanted for the Prince of Wales, they have assumed the language of *economy*, have talked of the *burthens* of the people, have caused the matter to be discussed till it became the topic of every farm-house, and

have, in their detestable publications, of various sorts and endless number, held him forth as the great, and almost the only, spender of the public money.—How unjust this is, how flagrantly false, any one will see who looks into the Lists of Places and Pensions, where he will find that LORD ARDEN, the Brother of Mr. PERCEVAL, receives, as the proceeds of a sinecure, full *one third part* as much as is allowed to His Royal Highness, the Heir Apparent to the Throne, and of which sinecure, be it not forgotten, Mr. PERCEVAL himself has the *reversion*! His Royal Highness is not allowed more than *twice* as much as has been, for years, received by the Marquis of Buckingham; and he is not allowed more than about *four* times as much as is received, in net profits, by Mr. GARNIER, the patentee of the Office of *Apothecary General* to the Army!—Now, I put it to the reader, whether there ever was a more foul attack, ever more base insinuations, than those now revived and propagated by the enemies of the Prince; and whether the people ought not, by all the constitutional means in their power, to show their abhorrence of such proceedings and attempts.—The reviving and propagating of such insinuations clearly demonstrate the *real character* of the persons, with whom they evidently originate, and whose “*loyalty*” and “*friendship for the King*” have now received a most satisfactory explanation. These are professions calculated to deceive and to cheat the nation, and intended for that sole purpose. Those who use them would now tear to pieces, if they could, the kingly government, rather than see it in the hands of the Prince of Wales; and this only because they are aware, that his Royal Highness would not use it for purposes for which *they* would wish to see it used. If he were ready to make the use of it that *they* desire, not a word should we hear from them about the *necessity of limitations*; not a word about *regard for the King*, for, in fact, they have no feeling of affection or of COMPASSION, as is clearly shown in the whole of their publications, of every sort and shape.—Such is their “*loyalty*”; such is the conduct of those, who, by way of excellence, call themselves “*the loyal*”; and against all such, and men of such principles, let us hope that it is quite unnecessary to put his Royal Highness upon his guard.—This venal writer chooses to suppose, that which no man has said or meant. He chooses to represent those who are op-

posed to the measure of limitations generally and to the creating of a *new Household* in particular; he chooses to represent these persons as *wishing the Regent to have no regal establishment, but to see him walking the streets in a brown coat.* This he chooses to assume, because he anticipates, that we shall object to *new taxes* in order to uphold an *additional regal establishment.*—What an impudent misrepresentation is this! And what a contempt must such a man have for the understandings of his readers!—No: we do not wish the Regent to walk the street in a brown coat and to be unable to cope with Lord ARDEN or Mr. PERCEVAL in point of expenditure. We do not wish the Regent to be without a regal establishment. We do not wish him to be stripped of all the splendour belonging to the kingly office. We wish *just the contrary*; we wish him to have *all* the powers and *all* the splendour of a king of England: but, as we know that there *already* is a regal Establishment, we wish him to have *that*, as long as it shall be necessary for him to fill the high Office, to which that establishment belongs.—This venal writer impudently takes it for granted, that we consent, or, at least, that it will finally be determined to *withhold from His Royal Highness the PRESENT Household*, the present regal establishment; when the fact notoriously is, that it is now a question to be decided, in the two Houses, whether the present establishment is to be withheld from the Prince, or not: it is notorious that this is the question now at issue; and yet this writer, with impudence truly characteristic of venality, speaks of the thing as *settled*; speaks of the question as *decided*; speaks of the thing, in short, as if the present regal establishment was, by common consent, to be withheld from the Prince. Such barefaced misrepresentation as this *may* impose upon some people; but one would hope, that the number capable of being so imposed upon must be very few indeed.—Another trick resorted to is to speak of the imposing of *new taxes*, for the purpose of providing a household for the Regent, as an act of *magnanimity on the part of the Minister*; as if he were willing to face the *unpopularity* that might arise from such a measure. And here the example of Mr. PITT is quoted, who, in answer to the complaints of the Opposition in 1748, said, that, before he went out of office, he himself would propose the taxes necessary for a new establishment for the Re-

gent.—How *magnanimous* this was! He would incur the unpopularity of imposing new taxes *for the sake of the Regent*! What a flimsy pretence? The new taxes were to be imposed *for the sake of himself and his party*, who would, of course, have been the *Council of Her Majesty*, in whose hands the old establishment was to be kept. There then was, as there now is, a regal Establishment; and, *in order that that might remain under his influence*, the Minister would lay on new taxes to make another for the Prince. He would have made the people pay the expences of a new establishment, in order that he and his party might still possess all the influence belonging to the old one. What rare magnanimity! What kindness towards the Prince!—The enemies of kingly government have always placed amongst its evils the great expences attached to the regal state. Its friends have been obliged to acknowledge that the thing was, *in-itself*, an objection; but that it was far overbalanced by certain advantages; and, they have, at the same time, contended, that such expences were, in fact, made *for the sake of the people*, and not for the sake of the King, that they were necessary to the kingly office, which office was necessary to the welfare of the people. Now, what becomes of all this reasoning, what becomes of this defence of kingly establishments, if we are to see the present establishment *withheld* from him, who is to fill the office of King; if we see it separated from the Office, and held in hand as a mere *personal possession*? If we see it kept back for the use of the King, and that, too, during the time that he shall be *known*, and *officially declared*, to be incapable of performing any of the functions of that office, to render which efficient for the service of the people, such establishment is held to be necessary, and upon which ground alone the supporting of it is justified.—Then again, suppose the King should recover? The Prince, in that case, would have to lay down his *new establishment*. There would be another change, and that too, of no very agreeable kind. Whereas, if he take, as I trust he will, the present Household and Establishment, there would be no change at all of a nature to produce any disagreeable impression. He would merely have to give up the Office, with all that belongs to it, to his Father, without any new expences or any of those difficulties that must inevitably arise in the other case.—And, why should not this be?

What reason is there for keeping the old establishment in the hands of *other persons*? The King himself cannot use it? To him no splendour can be necessary; and, as to the Queen, it is well known, that she could not retain the establishment a moment after the King's death, and, of course, that it cannot be fitting, that she should possess it now. Indeed, it in nowise belongs to her; she has a provision of her own, or, at least, appropriated to herself; the household belonging to the Office of the King, and that, too, for the benefit of the people. For whom, then, is this vast establishment to be kept up at the same time that the people are called upon to support another for the Prince? For whom? Who is to have the management of it? Who is to possess the benefit of it? Who is to have the political influence derived from its possession? In short, how is it possible to find out a pretence, even a shadow of reason, for such a measure?—The venal writer, after having, in the manner above-described, misrepresented the question; after having impudently taken for granted, that, by common consent, the old establishment is to be withheld from the Prince, and that the opponents of the Ministers wish that no new taxes should be imposed for the purpose of making a new regal establishment; after this, he says, that all men, "except SIR FRANCIS BURDETT and his rabble, wish the kingly office to be surrounded with splendour. He then says, that the cant against taxation may please them, who have often recommended that the servants of the state should work without pay."—If in falshood there can be degrees, these are the most false of this venal and malignant man's assertions. SIR FRANCIS BURDETT has never represented taxes as unnecessary; he has never attempted to represent taxes, in the abstract, as an oppression. He is too wise to entertain such an opinion, and has too much integrity and sincerity to affect to believe it. I might content myself with this denial, and leave the malignant accuser to prove his charge; but, I will not so content myself. I will prove the negative, and hold up the malignant accuser to public scorn.—On the 2nd of July, 1804, when the Minister came to Parliament for a large grant (591,842l.) to pay off the arrears only of the King's Civil List, SIR FRANCIS BURDETT, upon the subject of taxation, said, "I repeat, that feeling the pressure of the times, and the misapplication of the public money, I am

"averse to every thing that has a tendency to increase our difficulties. I am, however, far from wishing to make a general declaration against every species of taxation. I am of opinion, on the contrary, that taxation, properly applied, may be as beneficial as the moisture absorbed by the sun from the earth, which, falling again in rains and dews, fertilizes the soil. But, how different that taxation, which is extorted from the industry of the people, and applied only to corrupt their morals, and undermine their freedom! Such is the system which has been the ruin of other countries, and is likely to be the ruin of this if the constitutional interposition of parliament does not prevent it."—This has always, upon similar occasions, been his language. Let the malignant son of venality, therefore, regorge his accusation, or let his foolish readers believe him, if they will. He knows well, that neither SIR FRANCIS BURDETT, nor any man of his principles, has ever expressed a sentiment resembling those here imputed to them; but, he also knows, that SIR FRANCIS BURDETT is the implacable, the mortal, foe of seat-selling and of corruption and public robbery of every sort; and it is for this that the MEAN, MERCENARY and MALIGNANT men hate him, and would willingly see him broiled alive. For this it is that they thus labour, that they incessantly toil, to misrepresent his opinions and his views; being well assured, that, if his wishes be accomplished, they are destroyed.—Very unfortunate indeed was this venal man in introducing SIR FRANCIS BURDETT as one of those, who would wish to see His Royal Highness the Prince walking the streets in a brown coat, and stripped of all the splendour belonging to his rank; for, not only has the Honourable Baronet never let fall an expression to warrant such a charge, but he has, upon divers occasions, and upon every occasion when he with propriety could, expressed sentiments of an exactly opposite cast. He has not only, upon every such occasion, expressed his wish, that the several branches of the Royal Family should have a suitable and splendid establishment, observing, that it was not this that would oppress the people, that this was comparatively nothing, that the people never did, and never ought to grudge this, and that, indeed, one of the great sins of the system of which he complained, was, that it kept down the Royal Family, while it oppressed the people. This has been uniformly his language, as

often as occasion has served; and, he has been particularly strong upon all these occasions, in protesting against the *illiberal treatment*, as to pecuniary matters, experienced by His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales. Of this fact those who are at all acquainted with what has passed in the political world will want no particular proof; but, as the MEAN, MERCENARY and MALIGNANT men have put forward the accusation, I cannot refrain from quoting another passage from Sir FRANCIS's speech of 2nd July, 1804, upon the Civil List grant then proposed:—"My most serious objection," said he, "to the vote proposed, refers to the *unconstitutional application* of the public money. I advert to the sums advanced to the princes of the blood, *without the consent of Parliament*. I do not think it decent or becoming that the princes of England should be *dependent on the minister of the day*. If they wanted relief, they ought to have made application to the House of Commons, and not condescend to receive *bounties from the Chancellor of the Exchequer*. I recollect, however, and the reflection gives me pain, that whenever they have applied to this House in a constitutional way, for that relief to which they were entitled, their claims have been rejected. This has been particularly evinced in the applications of THAT ILLUSTRIOUS MEMBER OF THE FAMILY, who enjoys, as he deserves, the particular affection and confidence of the people; and is therefore, perhaps, AN OBJECT OF JEALOUSY TO SOME. But, whenever these princes have appealed to ministers privately, that assistance has been constitutionally granted, which ought only to have flowed from Parliament. It is a subject of regret and surprise, that what Parliament has refused should be bestowed by ministerial influence."—Such have always been the sentiments of SIR FRANCIS BURDETT upon this subject; and yet, these venal men have the impudence to hold him forth as a person, who wishes to degrade the Royal Authority and the Royal Family; as a person who wishes the Regent "to walk the streets in a brown coat;" as a person who is desirous of using his great influence with the people to persuade them, that all taxes are unnecessary and oppressive, and that the several branches of the Royal Family, and the Prince of Wales in particular, ought to be regarded as squanderers of the people's earnings.—And this these venal men do at

the same moment, that they are exerting all their influence to revive the base insinuations respecting the Prince's expences; at the same moment that they have the impudence to talk of "the *unpopularity*" arising from his debts;" at the same moment that they are taunting him with having his income anticipated, "*mortgaged*," and *hampered*," and are, in short, leaving nothing untried to place him in a light at once the most odious and most contemptible. These are the men who assume to themselves the appellations of "*the loyal*," and of "*King's friends*;" these are the men, who have, for years, been representing as *Jacobins* and *Levellers* and *Traitors*, all those who wished, and who still wish, for a reform of abuses, a destruction of seat-selling and of corruption, but who have never wished for any thing that should take from the King or his family any part of their just prerogatives, or any of the means of supporting the dignity and splendour belonging to their high rank and station.—There are, too, I have been told (and I heard it with a mixture of surprize and indignation) men, who call themselves "*the Prince's Friends*," who have taken upon them to say, that SIR FRANCIS BURDETT was *not to be considered in that character*. If they meant by *Prince's Friends*, those who may have espoused his cause for their own sakes; who have been looking to him, because it was their last and only hope; because it was useless for them to look elsewhere; if this be what they mean by "*Prince's friends*," Sir Francis does, certainly, not make one of them. But, will any one of these gentlemen (and, I trust, they are few in number) show me *how* and *when* they have shown their friendship towards the Prince? Will they show me *how* and *when* they have given proofs of this friendship? And, will they show me; will the best of them show me, how they are so ABLE to serve the Prince as Sir Francis Burdett has been, and now is? Will they show me, will any of them undertake to prove to me, that *their* opinions are likely to go further with the nation, than the opinions of Sir Francis Burdett? Will they attempt to say, that, either in England, in Ireland, or in any part of the world, the opinions of Sir Francis Burdett will not, upon any public matter, and especially upon a matter of this sort, weigh as much as theirs?—Sir Francis Burdett, as I once before observed, wants nothing of the Prince but what every man may

reasonably wish for, namely, his good opinion; he appears from his publicly declared sentiments, always to have regarded him as having been treated in an illiberal manner, and as having been, by foul means, attempted to be undermined in the public opinion. He has looked upon his treatment as *unjust*, and that, without any other motive, was sufficient to put an independent and honest English Gentleman on his side; and especially when he saw the Prince assailed by those foul insinuations, which seem now to be revived with all their original malignity.

WM. COBBETT.

*State Prison, Newgate,
Friday, 28th Dec. 1810.*

COBBETT'S PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.—On Tuesday next, the 1st of January, will be ready for delivery, the FIFTEENTH, SIXTEENTH, and SEVENTEENTH Volumes, comprising the whole of the Debates and Proceedings, in both Houses, during the Last Session of Parliament.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

PRISONERS OF WAR. — *Official Documents, from No. I. to No. XVIII. relating to the late Negotiation for an Exchange of Prisoners of War, between England and France. — (Continued from p. 1312.)*

The only and incontestible means of executing completely a concerted principle of a general exchange, is to convey to the road of Calais all the French prisoners, and those of the powers allied to France, which are in England. To bring also all the English prisoners, with a number from the allies of England, making together a number equal to that of the French, or the allies of France, who are prisoners in England, and there make the exchange.—By this means an exchange, which only depends on the will of the two Governments, will be effected.—From Calais, the British government may transport the Spanish prisoners to the ports of Spain still in a state of insurrection, or do what they please with them. This plan is simple and without obstacle, because it suits well enough both governments. All the French prisoners in the power of England, and all the English in the power of France, being liberated by these means, the surplus of the Spanish prisoners shall be exchanged against the French prisoners in Spain; and to this end the Bri-

tish Government promised its intervention, as far as circumstances rendered it practicable to bring about the exchange.—The undersigned flatters himself, that the justice of these observations will strike M. the British Commissary; and that he will perceive that the execution of a principle acknowledged by the two Governments cannot be made to depend on the will of insurrectional governments; which, if the immense forces which the repose of the Continent places at the disposal of France are considered, evidently cannot last for the time necessary to execute the whole of the articles of the counter-project.—It is not in the spirit of pride or presumption that the undersigned insists on this last operation, but only to complete the proof that that event taking place, the execution of paragraphs 11 and 12 in the 4th art. of the counter-project would become impossible, and the situation of the French prisoners remaining in England would be desperate and without example.—In striking the actual balance of prisoners of war between France and England, it is evident, from a report of the population of both nations, that there is of one side and the other a proportion nearly equal of prisoners of war; consequently there is an equal proportion of wishes in France and in England for their liberation, an equal proportion of warranty for the treatment which they may experience, and an equal power of making reprisals, if circumstances should render it necessary.—But if we begin to deliver up all the English prisoners.—England finds herself immediately uninterested in this species of misfortune; so much so, that the Frenchmen detained in England will find themselves without warranty of exchange, and without warranty of the treatment which they expect.—On this reasoning is established the principle of a general exchange, and the principle agreed upon. It is this argument which, in reason, in policy, and humanity, admits not the execution of means tending directly or indirectly to modify the consequence. The undersigned raises not a question which could be misplaced here, in entering into a detail of the deplorable situation of the French prisoners in England, crowded in hulks, where they are deprived of all exercise. Cooped up by thousands in the prison of Dartmoor, described, by all the reports which have reached us, as situated in the most unwholesome spot in England; breathing in this



prison, as in the hulks, and, perhaps, worse, a fetid and corrupted air, they have contracted contagious disorders, which carries them off by hundreds, or which terminates in diseases incurable; to say the least of them, while they remain, England will not derive any advantage from them.—The undersigned does not oppose to this situation of the French prisoners, the good treatment received by the English prisoners in France; distributed in large citadels situated in the most healthy cities of the empire, they exercise themselves in all the extent of these places as freely and familiarly as our own people; and those among them who are laborious often obtain the reward which they deserve from their talents and industry. So far from having contagious maladies, they have fewer diseases among them, perhaps, than if they were perfectly free.—The undersigned will make no more observations on the number of Hanoverians mentioned in the counter-project, nor on the omission of Russia and Denmark, which are to be taken into consideration with France, in a treaty for the exchange of their prisoners of war.—No discussion can take place on these incidental questions until the bases of the negotiation are settled.—The undersigned has the honour, &c.

No. VIII. (August 1.) is a note from Mr. Mackenzie to M. Dumoustier. He begins by regretting that throughout the whole of M. Dumoustier's note, a style of expression and discussion prevails, very calculated to promote the object which they both profess to have in their view. After some farther observations on the suggestions of M. Dumoustier, he proceeds thus:—The principal objection stated against the counter-project is, that the fulfilment of its execution depends upon the will of others. This is inevitable in a transaction in which so many different Governments are interested. It is impossible to avoid some delay, or to guarantee under all possible circumstances the execution of a principle, however general its adoption may be. An objection similar to this, advanced against the British counter-project, might be well-applied to the French project; since notwithstanding the enunciation of the principle of the universal exchange in some of its articles, the execution of this principle, as far as appertains to the exchange between France and Spain (without naming any other Governments) depends on the consent of the respective Governments. The only point

proposed, which should be definitively decided, was the restitution to France, without delay, and in mass, of all the French prisoners in England, and to England of all the English prisoners in France: a stipulation, all the advantages of which, notwithstanding the singular argument of M. Dumoustier, is on the side of France. Even according to the proposition last transmitted, the full execution of the principle, as to all the French prisoners in Spain, and the surplus of Spanish prisoners in France, would depend on the success of the intervention of the British Government with that of Spain.—M. Dumoustier will therefore remark, that in establishing that the execution of a principle, adopted at the same time by the English Government and that of France, should not be left at the discretion of what he thinks proper to call the insurrectional governments of Spain, he substitutes for a principle really adopted, viz. the general exchange of all the prisoners on all sides, the principle put forward by France, viz. The liberation of all the French prisoners in England, for all the English prisoners in France; and then, because the measure proposed does not agree in certain points with the execution of a principle which England does not admit, he complains that it annuls or eludes the consequences the most important of the principle which England does admit.—Ag. “It was not within the competence of the functions with which M. Dumoustier and the undersigned are charged, to establish, or even to discuss the question, relative to the Government of Spain. The undersigned must, however, observe, that a Government capable of putting armies in motion, and capable of making prisoners of its enemies, is, at least, competent to treat with those enemies for the exchange of its prisoners. That Government, which Great Britain acknowledges for her ally, ought, at least, to be consulted by her as to what concerns her interests, her sentiments, and her honour. It is for that Government to decide, whether it wishes to obtain the deliverance of so many thousands of Spaniards, who may co-operate in its defence, in allowing for the price of that advantage the deliverance of so many thousands of Frenchmen who may co-operate in attacking her.—It does not belong to the undersigned to anticipate upon the probability of the duration, and on the final issue of the contest; but if the overthrow

of this Government is so certain and so near, that there is not even time to communicate the terms of a cartel, he cannot refrain from asking what are become of all the arguments employed with so much warmth to induce Great Britain to exchange the French prisoners in her power for the Spanish prisoners in the power of France? If the war with Spain is in fact so near its end, what reason can there be that in such a case Great Britain should be ready to make a sacrifice for their exchange?—It should still be observed, that the plan now proposed by M. Dumoustier differs considerably from that proposed in the French project; by which the alternative was established, of sending the Spanish prisoners in France into England, or into the different towns in Spain, which might be agreed upon. This last part of the alternative is alone admissible. It is not just that the embarrassment and the expence of the transport of her allies to their respective countries should fall upon Great Britain. The only proper and equitable principle is, that each of the contracting parties should engage to transport into their respective countries the prisoners which are found in their possession.—The undersigned is charged, in consequence, with informing M. Dumoustier, that this part of the proposition contained in his note is not admissible. Mr. Mackenzie is further ordered to add to M. Dumoustier, that the British Government does not feel itself bound in justice to make any addition to the humane and liberal proposition which has already been made in its name. It does not find itself disposed to depart in any degree from its tenour.—Nevertheless, to establish the sincerity of its desire to effect an exchange and a cartel, if possible, in a point of view still more clear, the undersigned is authorised to propose an additional article, which ought entirely to remove the apprehensions of the French Government of the possibility of a continuation of the captivity of its subjects, after all the British subjects shall have been liberated.—After some further remarks, Mr. Mackenzie continues:—M. Dumoustier disavows an intention of agitating a question which he feels is misplaced, relative to the treatment of French prisoners in England; yet, notwithstanding his disavowal, he enters into this misplaced question. Mr. Mackenzie will not imitate him; but simply assures him, that the discussion itself is not more misplaced than the enumeration of facts which M.

Dumoustier advances is erroneous. If any convenient opportunity offered to enter into those details, the undersigned declares that the British Government will be able clearly to prove that the information on which the French Government founds its opinion on this subject is altogether without foundation. He is sorry to be obliged to observe, that all comparison which could be made between the situation and treatment of prisoners in Great Britain and in France respectively cannot turn out but in favour of the former.—The British Government has charged Mr. Mackenzie to declare, that the number of Hanoverians having been fixed after the most attentive researches and consideration which could be given to the subject, he cannot depart from his proposition with regard to them.—With regard to Denmark or Russia, Mr. Mackenzie cannot conceal his surprize that M. Dumoustier could maintain, that there existed, with respect to them, a material omission in the British project, of which the first, the second, and the sixth article, comprehend the allies of both parties. If Russia and Denmark are allies of France, they will find themselves comprehended in these articles. If they are not so, what right has Great Britain or France to mix their interests in this convention.—Nevertheless, Mr. Mackenzie is authorised to announce, that there will be no difficulty in extending the principle of the British project in regard to the Russian and Danish prisoners respectively; and that the British Government is ready to enter into an arrangement with these two Powers, upon the bases of the project which has been offered in their name.

Additional Article proposed.—In case the Spanish Government to which the terms of this Convention will be communicated, should not signify its assent thereunto within three months from the date of the signature, the French subjects, who may be prisoners in Great Britain or her possessions after the exchange of prisoners respectively, as expressed in the five first paragraphs of the fourth article, shall be liberated successively, without delay, by successive conveyances of one thousand men each, on proper receipts, in the form which shall be agreed upon, and upon the positive engagement (ratified by the French Government) that they shall not serve either upon sea or land, against Great Britain, or any of her allies, in any part of the world, before they be regularly

exchanged for similar British prisoners, who, by the chance of war, may fall into the hands of the French, and who shall consequently be liberated, from time to time, until the surplus of French prisoners formerly mentioned shall be exhausted. A similar exchange will take place according to the 5th and 6th paragraphs of the fourth article.—All the Officers not exchanged, and those who may be permitted to return to France, as is expressed above, must also be considered as if they were upon their parole of honour, and shall be bound to transmit a regular report of the place of their residence to the British agent in France, as was the practice last war.

IX. *Letter from Mr. Mackenzie to M. Dumoustier.*—*Morlaix, August 28, 1810.*—Sir,—Having waited with anxiety for some communication upon the decision of the French Government, whether acceptance or refusal, relative to the proposition which I had the honour of presenting you on the morning of the 2d instant, which has hitherto detained the messenger and the vessel, I went myself to your house at the expiration of fifteen days, and declared to you verbally, “that I received instructions to wait with patience during that time for an answer to the propositions which have been made, and that in case they were not agreed to by the French Government, I should return to England.” I am at present desired to inform you, that the British Government feels itself repugnant to conclude, that the disposition of the French Government is of a nature which renders a prolongation of the negotiation useless; and I am ordered to beg you will have the goodness to demand my passports for my immediate return to England, &c.

No. X. August 30. Is a reply from M. Dumoustier, to the preceding note from Mr. Mackenzie. He rejects the additional article; and after some arguments in favour of considering the Spaniards and Portuguese as British, he concludes with the following propositions:—1st. That the French Government offers a general exchange, man for man, and rank for rank, considering Spaniards, Portuguese, English, French, Italians, &c. upon an equality. This is most just and reasonable.—2dly. France also consents that all the French prisoners should be sent to France, and all the English to England; but as the number of French prisoners exceeds that of the English, they shall be sent to France on their parole, subject to the conditions

of the additional article of the 1st of August.—Lastly, France at once consents that all French prisoners in England should be liberated; but she never can consent to liberate only a part, and abandon the majority in England, without guarantee or hope.

No. XI. Another project of a Convention for the exchange of prisoners, presented by M. Dumoustier.

No XII. *Note of Mr. Mackenzie.*—The undersigned Commissary for the exchange of prisoners of war has transmitted to his Government the note of M. Dumoustier of the 30th of August, together with the project there referred to; and is charged, in answer to that communication, to inform M. Dumoustier, that his last project is in many respects inadmissible; but it appears by his note that he raises no objection as to the basis of the British project, and that the difficulties regard merely two points of detail, namely, in the first place, that which regards the additional article regulating the disposal of the surplus of French prisoners remaining in England, on the supposition of Spain refusing to accede to the convention; and secondly, that which respects the number of French prisoners to be liberated on account of the Hanoverian army of Count Walmoden.—The British Government has considered these two points with the same disposition which it has ever bestowed in doing away the difficulties, and has contributed to the final success of the negotiation by every reasonable concession; and finding that, though adhering faithfully to the principles which it has before manifested, and which it still maintains, changes might be introduced in the details of the Convention of a nature to give satisfaction to the wishes of the French Government on that subject, it is freely disposed to offer them, in expectation that these alterations in the terms of its project, being the last which can be made on its part, will be found also the most acceptable, and that they will enable the French Government to furnish its assistance heartily, and candidly, to bring this prolonged discussion to a happy termination.—As, on the first point, the objections of M. Dumoustier had a reference to the setting at liberty the surplus French prisoners in England, and to the determination of an exchange between France and Spain; and as the point upon which he insists is the liberation, without delay, of all the French prisoners in England, in exchange for those of Great Britain and her allies now in France; the British Go-

vernment has consented to make such a modification in its project as may be able to fulfil that object which M. Dumoustier has considered of such great importance.—Instead, therefore, of sending (according to the stipulations of the original British proposal) the exchange of the surplus of French prisoners remaining in England, for the surplus of Spanish prisoners remaining in France, even to the full completion of exchange, man for man, and rank for rank, between France and Spain, Mr. Mackenzie is authorised to consent that the exchange of the surplus of French prisoners who possibly might remain in England at the conclusion of the cartel between France and England, should take place immediately, and without waiting for the conclusion of the exchange of man for man, and rank for rank, between France and Spain; or, in other words, the British Government consents to anticipate the exchange of the surplus, and thus to accelerate, by this concession on their part, the liberation of so many French and Spanish captives.—The undersigned is charged to declare, in addition, that by a communication which has been made by the Spanish Government, through its Minister residing in London, the British Government is fully authorised to accept, without more delay, the exchange of Spanish prisoners in return for French prisoners, in the proportion above-mentioned; and that the Spanish Government has equally made known its disposition to accede to a convention for a general exchange, agreeably to the terms which for this end may be agreed on, under the mediation of Great Britain; and Mr. Mackenzie cannot help observing, that this circumstance renders the entire discussion on the additional articles useless and superfluous.—As to the second objection raised by M. Dumoustier, relative to the number of prisoners to be given up in regard to the Hanoverian army of Walsleben, he requires that in reckoning that number, those who might have entered into the service of Great Britain should be taken into consideration. The British Government is disposed, in like manner, to accede to this proposition; but the extension which M. Dumoustier has given to this demand is altogether inadmissible; no computation which could be made with any degree of exactness could raise the amount of the loss of those Hanoverians to the British service beyond the number of 1,000, in place of what was before offered as an equivalent. Mr. Mackenzie is

authorised to consent that 3,000 French prisoners, instead of 2,000 formerly stipulated, be set at liberty, in consideration of the Hanoverians comprehended in the capitulation of Count Walsleben, who either now are or who may have hitherto been in the British service; that number of 3,000 being independent of the total amount of 1,905 men, immediately to be liberated in regard to the garrison of St. Domingo, as has been agreed upon in the communication made by the Commissioners of the Transport-office to M. Riviere, of the 19th of January last.—Mr. Mackenzie has the honour of presenting now to M. Dumoustier, the minute of a project, which does not differ from that before offered by the British Government, but in the alterations necessary to be made with regard to those two points; and at the same time to inform him, that no other alteration, or the giving up of any thing, can on any account be admitted.—In presenting his final proposal to the French Government, and in offering to it the bounds of a series of concessions to which the British Government has been carried, from sentiments of humanity and conciliation, Mr. Mackenzie is charged to impress on M. Dumoustier the conviction of the number, the extent, and the value of these concessions, and to recall to his attention how every new step of this negotiation has been accompanied with a new proof of liberality and candour on the part of the British Government.—The points in dispute relative to the capitulation of St. Domingo and the exchange of the civil subjects of Great Britain for French naval and military prisoners of war, and to an equivalent for the Hanoverians, to an exchange of French prisoners in England for those of other countries in the hands of France, and to the immediate liberation of French prisoners for Spanish, and to the chance of a surplus which might remain without any balance, have been successively conceded by Great Britain; though, conformably to precedents, and also agreeably to received usages, she might in turn, insist on some reciprocal concessions on the part of the French Government.—Mr. Mackenzie must in conclusion observe, that in virtue of the above-mentioned concessions, the French Government, in acceding to the liberal propositions now offered, for the last time, by the British Government, will obtain the setting at liberty of almost 5,000 men, independently of the final liberation of 45,000 other Frenchmen, who are now

in the power of Great Britain.—Mr. Mackenzie has the honour of renewing to M. Dumoustier the assurances of his high consideration.

No. XIII. Is the project inserted in the Times of the 27th of November.

No. XIV. *Note of M. Dumoustier to Mr. Mackenzie*, delivered October 7.—The undersigned Commissioner for the exchange of prisoners of war, has transmitted to his Government the Note of Mr. Mackenzie of the 22d of September, and the Project of Convention annexed thereto. He is directed, in answer to this communication, to declare that this arrangement will meet with no opposition on the part of the French Government, provided the British Government consents to modify the first, second, and fourth paragraphs of the fourth Article of the Project, as shall be mentioned below. In the first paragraph, it is wished that the following alteration should be made:—"All British prisoners, of all ranks and degrees, detained in France or Italy, or in the dependencies of France and Italy, shall be set at liberty, and their exchange shall immediately commence after the ratification of this Convention, by sending them to Deal or Portsmouth, or any other port in the Channel that shall be agreed on, or by assigning over to the hands of the British Commissary, who shall be nominated to receive them, a thousand English prisoners, and two thousand of the allies of England, for three thousand French prisoners, or of the allies of France, who shall be set at liberty by the British Government, as stated in the said paragraph." In the second paragraph it shall be stated, "that all the French prisoners of all ranks and degrees now detained in Great Britain, or in the British possessions, shall be set at liberty; their exchange shall take place immediately after the signature of this Convention, and shall be carried into effect by successively sending to Morlaix, or to any other French port in the Channel that may be agreed on, or by assigning over into the hands of the French Commissaries appointed to receive them, three thousand Frenchmen for one thousand English, and two thousand of the allies of England, in proportion as the French Government shall release them. It shall be at the discretion of the British Commissaries to send the Spanish prisoners to England, or to any part of Spain they please. The prisoners shall be at the disposal of the British Government, but to be maintained by France so long

as they shall remain on the French territory.—In the fourth paragraph it is wished that the number of eight thousand Hanoverians to be exchanged for eight thousand French, be altered to that of three thousand, as stated in the project, which will occasion a total exchange of seventeen thousand Hanoverians who have capitulated, for less than half of their number.—The undersigned, on condition that these alterations be admitted, is authorised to sign the British project. The alterations are founded on a principle from which France cannot depart—that of not consenting to the liberation of the great mass of English prisoners, but on condition that the mass of French prisoners is liberated at the same time.—This principle is that which has always been admitted, and particularly in 1780, when, to gain the object, the excess of French prisoners was met by a ransom in money.—England being unable to refuse acceding to an exchange of prisoners, including the Hanoverians, Portuguese, and Spaniards, admits the principle; and in that state of the question, she cannot deny the justness of an exchange, man for man, and rank for rank.—This mode of proceeding will establish very nearly a general and simultaneous exchange of all the French and all the English prisoners. The Spaniards that may afterwards remain in France, and the allies of the French that may be in England, may be included under the 6th and following article.—Mr. Mackenzie will observe, from the simplicity of this answer, that it has not been a subject of discussion at Paris; it is conformable to all that the undersigned has hitherto said in the discussions that have taken place, that if England only wishes a partial exchange, the negotiation may be considered as retrograde and broken off; but if she wishes in good earnest a general exchange, it is impossible to conceive any reason to prevent her adopting the only means of removing all doubts.—The undersigned can only here repeat that the French Government will never consent to give up the English prisoners that are in their power, for a part only of French that are in possession of England, and to leave the other part without guarantee in the hands of the British Government.

No. XV. *Note from Mr. Mackenzie.*—Morlaix, Oct. 16, 1810. Sir:—The determination of the French Government, thus repeated, to adhere to the rejection of the final proposition of the British Co-

vernment, prevents the accomplishment of the general liberation of all the prisoners of war; and compels me, in compliance with my instructions, to demand that you will have the goodness to provide for me the necessary passports for my immediate return to England. I have the honour to be, &c.

No. XVI. *Note of M. Dumoustier.*—Morlaix, Oct. 16, 1810. Sir:—I hereby answer your letter of the 8th inst. in which you say that we add the unexpected obstacle of loading the British Government with the arrangement of the expence and difficulties attending the conveyance of the Spanish prisoners, &c. This assertion is not exactly true, and I am directed again to repeat to you what I have always hitherto had the honour of stating, that any question respecting money will never prove an obstacle to the French Government, and that it will never be behind on any subject of this nature. The British Government may determine as it pleases; to all its wishes France will give her assistance, provided that, in consequence of the principle admitted in 1780, the exchange be made *en masse*, and that all the French shall return to their own country at the same time that the English shall return to their's. This condition is, and from the first day of negociation must have been, the "sine qua non." Every other consideration can only be regarded as matter of conciliation. It is the fourth time, Sir, that I have the honour of repeating to you the determination of my Government.

No. XVII. *Note of M. Dumoustier.*—Morlaix, Oct. 26. Sir:—The letter which I had the honour of writing you on the 16th inst. must have fully convinced you of the desire with which my Government has been uniformly animated, of removing, by all the sacrifices in its power, the difficulties started by England against the carrying into effect a general exchange, which must necessarily liberate, at the same time, on both sides, the great bulk of the prisoners of war.—You will, without doubt, do me the justice, Sir, that on my part I have always seconded as much as was in my power, the conciliatory disposition of my Government. I again give you another proof of it in consenting to split the difference with you on the question respecting the Hanoverians, and in only asking 6,000 French instead of 8,000, in exchange for 17,000 Hanoverians, comprised in the capitulation of Field Marshal Count Walmoden. I have, &c.

No. XVIII. *Note of Mr. Mackenzie.*—Sir:—I have the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 26th inst., and am happy to observe there is a conciliatory disposition on the part of the French Government; but, I feel, at the same time, a painful sensation in seeing that you limit yourself to the proposing of a diminution of the number (so often declared as inadmissible) of the French prisoners demanded in exchange for the Hanoverians of the army of Count Walmoden.—I have had the honour of repeating very frequently my orders, which in this respect were positive; and I have now to inform you for the third time, that the British Government adheres to the just and equitable plan of convention, finally modified for the immediate exchange of all prisoners of war; and that in case it should not be accepted, I am ordered to return immediately to England.

Mr. Mackenzie sailed on the 6th of November.

PORTUGAL.—*Extract of an Official Communication from Marshal General Lord Wellington, to his Excellency Miguel Pereira Forjaz, dated Cartaxo, Dec. 1, 1810.*

The corps of the enemy's troops, the advanced guard of which engaged with the troops commanded by General Silveira on the 14th of the last month of November, moved to the left, and made its appearance on the 19th in the Subugal in the Coa, where it marched in the direction of Belmonte and Fundas, and taking the two roads which lead to the Zezere through Lower Beira, reached to Cardigan on the 25th of the same month.—The militia of Lower Beira, continually hung on the rear of the enemy, and caused him a considerable loss. The said detachment of the enemy's troops consists of those which left Portugal with Gen. Foix, who went to Paris, and of those belonging to the three corps of the army of Portugal which were left in Salamanca, Ciudad Rodrigo, and Almeida, to garrison the said places, of 3 or 4 battalions detached from the 8th corps, by order of the Emperor, under the command of General Serras, for the purpose of manœuvring on the frontiers, and of the convalescents of the army of Portugal, composing in the whole, a force of about 2,400 men.—It is difficult to ascertain the exact number of the said reinforcements, but in my estimation it does not exceed 8,000 men.—The troops who com-

pose the 9th corps form the garrisons of those places in Castile, whence the troops were withdrawn, who lately entered Portugal.—The enemy continues to maintain himself in Santarem, the strength of which position has been considerably increased; he has also fortified a post in Punhete, on the left bank of the River Zézere, and another in the environs of Pernes and Alcanhede, on the right of the position of Santarem, and watches with the most careful attention all our movements in that direction. The weather has been constantly very bad ever since the middle of November, the cross roads are altogether impassable for artillery, and very difficult for the passage of infantry, while at the same time the waters are out, and the low grounds overflowed. All the accounts which I receive from Castile unanimously assure me, that the Spanish flying parties continue to act with the utmost activity, and that their operations against the enemy have of late proved very successful.

Extract of a Letter from his Excellency Marshal Gen. Lord Wellington, to his Excellency Don Miguel Pereira Forjaz, dated Dec. 8, 1810.

No alteration of importance has taken place in the position of the enemy's troops since the 1st inst. the date of my antecedent dispatches, which I transmitted to your Excellency relative to the operations of the campaign. I have no accounts from Cadiz since the 19th of last month.

PORTUGAL.—Published in the London Gazette, 25th Dec. 1810.—A Dispatch, of which the following is a copy, was received last night at the office of the Earl of Liverpool from Lieutenant-General Viscount Wellington, dated Cartaxo, Dec. 8th, 1810.

My Lord;—The detachment of the enemy's troops commanded by General Gardanne, which had returned to Sobreira Formosa, have continued their march to the frontier, and by the last accounts had entered Spain.—I have not heard that this detachment had any communication with the enemy's troops on the left of the Zézere, from whom they were distant about three leagues. I understand that, having lost some prisoners, taken by a patrol and by a party of the ordenanza, which accompanied the Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Ponsonby on reconnoissance from Abrantes to the river Codes, they made very particular enquiries respecting the position of Lieutenant-General Hill's

corps, and the means which the Allies possessed of crossing the Tagus at Abrantes; and, having commenced their march from Cardigos towards the Codes in the morning, they retired about eleven with great precipitation, and continued their retreat in the same manner till they reached the frontier.—They were followed by the ordenanza, who did them much mischief on the march, and took much baggage from them. The enemy destroyed many horses and mules which could not keep up with them; and this march, if it was ordered by superior authority, and is connected with any other arrangement, had every appearance, and was attended by all the consequences, of a precipitate and forced retreat.—No alteration of any importance has been made in the position of the enemy's troops since I addressed your Lordship.

SWEDEN.—Declaration of War against England, 17th Nov. 1810.

We, Charles, by the Grace of God, King of Sweden, of the Goths and Vandals, &c. &c. Heir to Norway, Duke of Schleswig, Holstein, &c. &c. make known. Whereas, in order completely to do away the doubts which have been expressed concerning the situation of our kingdom with respect to England, and in order in a more effectual manner, to confirm the ties of amity and confidence that exist between us and his Majesty the Emperor of the French, and King of Italy; as also, in order, on our part, to contribute to the common object of the Powers of the Continent, namely, the conclusion of a general and speedy peace, we have been induced hereby to declare war against the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. We do therefore graciously order and enjoin, that all navigation, trade, and intercourse by the mail, and by all other correspondence by letter, under what name soever it may be, from and to all the ports, cities, and places, situate in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the dependencies thereof, shall, under penalty, according to the laws and decrees in that behalf made, entirely cease from this day. Accordingly, our gracious will and pleasure is, that our Field-Marsbals, Lord-Governors, Commanding-Generals, Admirals, Lord-Lieutenants, and all other of our Commanders by land and sea, shall each in their several districts and departments, together with the Officers under their command, not only adopt measures for the due and

prompt publication of this our gracious Order, for the information of the Public, but also for the due and strict adherence thereto. And all those concerned are obediently to regulate themselves accordingly.—In further testimony whereof we have personally signed these presents, and caused the same to be affirmed by our Royal Seal.—The Palace of Stockholm, the 17th November, 1810.

CHARLES (L. S.) J. A. BORTZELL.

PRUSSIA.—Decree, dated Nov. 16, 1810, respecting the general Suppression of Ecclesiastical Establishments in the Kingdom of Prussia.

We Frederick William, by the Grace of God King of Prussia, &c. considering that the designs for which Ecclesiastical Institutions and Convents have hitherto been endowed are not consonant with the objects and necessities of the present times; considering that these designs may in part be better accomplished by different means;—That all neighbouring States have adopted the same measures;—That the punctual discharge of the contribution to France can only be effected by this expedient;—And that, by these means, we may diminish the heavy claims upon the private property of our subjects, we do decree as follows:—Art. I. All convents, and other ecclesiastical institutions, bailliwicks, and commendaries, whether of the Protestant or Catholic religion, shall from this day be considered as the property of the state.—Art. II. All convents, &c. shall, by degrees, be abolished; and care shall be taken of the compensation of all persons who now inhabit them, or have claims upon them.—Art. III. From the day of the date of the present Decree, no annuities shall be allowed, no novices shall be admitted, and no person instituted to any office belonging to them. Without our consent, no change of property shall be made, no capitals shall be collected, no debts contracted, and no inventories transferred. All contracts made in opposition to those directions are null and void.—Art. IV. We shall provide for the sufficient recompence of the Chief Ecclesiastical Officers, and with their advice for the liberal pensioning of the Priests of the Schools; and also for those Convents that are employed for the education of youth,

and the care of the sick, which suffer in their revenue by the above measure, or which may appear to require new funds.

SPAIN.—Decree of the Cortes for a Monument of Gratitude to the King and People of England.—Dated Isle of Leon, 19 Nov. 1810.

The Cortes General and Extraordinary, actuated by the most lively and sincere gratitude towards his Most Sacred Majesty George the Third, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, for the generous interest he has displayed and for the most important assistance he has afforded to the Spanish nation, in liberally supplying her with arms, money, troops, ships, and stores, from the first moment in which the Provinces raised the loud acclaim of independence and fidelity to their legitimate Sovereign King Ferdinand VII., insidiously ensnared, captured, and insulted by the unprincipled Usurper of the Throne of France, Napoleon Buonaparte:—hereby decree, that a public Monument shall be erected to his Majesty George the Third, in testimony of the National gratitude of Spain, not only to an august, generous Sovereign, but to the unconquerable English Nation for the ardour and patriotism which she has evinced in the glorious cause of Spain. The Cortes at the same time declare, that the Spanish Nation will not lay down her arms until she has secured her independence, the absolute integrity of the Spanish Monarchy in both worlds, and recovered it for her lawful Sovereign, Ferdinand VII. acting always with the concurrence, and in the most perfect harmony, with the King of Great Britain, in pursuance of the strict amity, and the perfect and indissoluble alliance, solemnly stipulated in the treaty of the 14th of January 1809. The Council of Regency will take care to make known to his Majesty, respecting the most solemn and appropriate manner in which the same can be executed, and will also submit to the Cortes the plan which it thinks will be the best for carrying such national intention into effect. The Council conceives it proper, in the first instance, with a view to the attainment of the desired object, that this Decree shall be printed, and publicly circulated.

END OF VOL. XVIII.

Published by R. BAGSHAW, Brydges-Street, Covent-Garden:—Sold also by J. BUDD, Pall-Mall.
LONDON:—Printed by T. C. HAZARD, Peterborough-Court, Fleet-Street.

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•• The Binder will notice that No. 7 is Signature H
8 K
9 *K
I, having been omitted.

TABLES.

TABLE of the Number of CHRISTENINGS and BURIALS within the Bills of Mortality, from June 26, 1810, to December 25, 1810.

Epochs.	CHRISTENED		BURIED														Total Buried.	
	Male.	Female	Under 2 Years.	2 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100, &c.			Males	Females
July	672	656	372	211	55	46	62	111	109	95	85	48	20	1	644	571		
August	946	874	584	276	93	51	81	153	133	97	119	85	32	3	877	830		
September ...	746	773	539	224	77	46	91	112	138	100	95	74	24	6	809	717		
October	811	745	588	217	71	60	88	150	145	107	98	75	20	2	859	762		
November ...	732	625	486	204	76	51	102	118	146	130	117	77	22	5	809	725		
December.....	1146	1093	715	297	123	89	147	207	263	192	221	154	84	10	1283	1219		
	5,053	4,766	3,284	1,429	495	343	571	851	934	721	735	513	202	27	5,281	4,824		

Total Christenings... 9,819

Total Burials... 10,105

Table of the Prices of MEAT, SUGAR, SALT, and COALS, in LONDON, from July 1810 to December 1810, inclusive.

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
Beef...	s. d. 6 0	s. d. 5 4	s. d. 5 4	s. d. 5 0	s. d. 5 8	s. d. 6 0	per Stone of 8lb. to sink the official.
Mutton	6 0	5 8	6 4	5 6	6 0	6 0	
Pork...	6 8	7 0	7 4	6 8	6 8	7 4	
Sugar	47 10 1/2	48 8 1/2	49 6 1/2	47 6 1/2	44 8 1/2	44 2 1/2	
Salt ...	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	Cwt.
Coals ..	59 6	60 9	60 0	60 0	71 9	61 6	Chald.

Price of the QUARTERN LOAF, according to the Assize of Bread in LONDON, for the Year 1810, taking the average of the four Assizes in each Month.

	s. d.		s. d.
January	1 4 1/4	July	1 5
February	1 0	August	1 5
March	1 2	September	1 3 1/4
April	1 2	October	1 3 1/4
May	1 3 1/4	November	1 3 1/4
June	1 5	December	1 3

Average Price during the Year 1 3 1/4 1/4

Table of the Prices of the English Three per Cent. Consols, from July 1810 to December 1810, inclusive.

Day.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	—	68 1/2	68	63 1/2	65 1/2	66 1/2
2	71 1/2	68 1/2	—	64 1/2	66 1/2	—
3	71 1/2	68 1/2	—	63 1/2	66 1/2	66 1/2
4	71 1/2	68 1/2	67 1/2	64	—	67
5	71 1/2	—	67 1/2	64 1/2	—	66 1/2
6	69 1/2	68 1/2	68	66 1/2	66 1/2	66 1/2
7	69 1/2	69 1/2	68	—	66 1/2	66 1/2
8	—	68 1/2	67 1/2	66 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2
9	69 1/2	68 1/2	—	66 1/2	66 1/2	—
10	69 1/2	68 1/2	68	66 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2
11	69 1/2	68 1/2	67 1/2	66 1/2	—	67 1/2
12	69 1/2	—	67 1/2	66 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2
13	69 1/2	—	67 1/2	66 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2
14	69 1/2	68 1/2	67 1/2	—	66 1/2	67 1/2
15	—	68 1/2	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	67 1/2
16	69 1/2	68 1/2	—	66 1/2	67 1/2	—
17	69 1/2	68 1/2	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	67 1/2
18	69 1/2	68 1/2	65 1/2	66 1/2	—	67 1/2
19	69	—	65 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	67 1/2
20	68 1/2	68 1/2	65 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	67 1/2
21	67 1/2	68 1/2	66 1/2	—	67 1/2	67 1/2
22	—	68 1/2	—	66 1/2	67 1/2	67 1/2
23	68 1/2	68 1/2	—	66 1/2	67 1/2	—
24	67 1/2	—	66 1/2	66 1/2	67	67 1/2
25	68	68 1/2	66 1/2	—	—	—
26	68 1/2	—	66 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	—
27	68 1/2	68 1/2	65 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	—
28	68 1/2	68 1/2	66 1/2	—	—	67 1/2
29	—	68 1/2	—	—	—	67 1/2
30	—	—	—	66 1/2	—	—
31	68 1/2	68 1/2	—	66 1/2	—	—

Number of BANKRUPTCIES announced in the London Gazette, between 20th of Dec. 1809, and 20th of Dec. 1810.

From 20 Dec. 1809, to 20 Jan. 1810	84
20 Jan. to 20 Feb.	118
20 Feb. to 20 March.....	119
20 March to 20 April.....	104
20 April to 20 May	125
20 May to 20 June.....	112
20 June to 20 July	132
20 July to 20 Aug.....	133
20 Aug. to 20 Sept.	102
20 Sept. to 20 Oct.....	139
20 Oct. to 20 Nov.....	273
20 Nov. to 20 Dec.	229
Total.....	1670

LIST OF HIS MAJESTY'S MINISTERS,

1810.

CABINET MINISTERS.

Earl Camden - - - - -	President of the Council.
Lord Eldon - - - - -	Lord High Chancellor.
Earl of Westmorland - - - - -	Lord Privy Seal.
Earl Bathurst - - - - -	President of the Board of Trade.
Right Hon. Spencer Perceval - - - - -	{ First Lord of the Treasury (Prime Minister) Chancellor and Under-Treasurer of the Ex- chequer, also Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.
Right Hon. Charles Philip Yorke - - - - -	
Lord Mulgrave - - - - -	First Lord of the Admiralty.
Right Hon. Richard Ryder - - - - -	Master-general of the Ordnance.
Marquis Wellesley - - - - -	Secretary of State for the Home Department.
Earl of Liverpool - - - - -	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
	Secretary of State for the Department of War and the Colonies.

NOT OF THE CABINET.

Right Hon. Robert Saunders Dundas - - - - -	President of the Board of Controol for the Affairs of India.
Right Hon. George Rose - - - - -	Vice-President of the Board of Trade and Trea- surer of the Navy.
Viscount Palmerston - - - - -	Secretary at War.
Lord Charles Somerset - - - - -	{ Joint Paymaster-general of the Forces.
Right Hon. Charles Long - - - - -	
Earl of Chichester - - - - -	{ Joint Postmaster-general.
Earl of Sandwich - - - - -	
Richard Wharton, esq. - - - - -	{ Secretaries of the Treasury.
Charles Arbuthnot, esq. - - - - -	
Sir William Grant - - - - -	Master of the Rolls.
Sir Vicary Gibbs - - - - -	Attorney-General.
Sir Thomas Plomer - - - - -	Solicitor-General.

PERSONS IN THE MINISTRY OF IRELAND.

Duke of Richmond - - - - -	Lord Lieutenant.
Lord Manners - - - - -	Lord High Chancellor.
W. Wellesley Pole - - - - -	Chief Secretary.
Right Hon. John Foster - - - - -	Chancellor of the Exchequer.

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